

1       What is claimed is:

2       1. A system for delivering electronic programming to a user,  
3           the system comprising:

4                a printed matter having at least one sensor and a  
5                transmitter for transmitting a coded signal in  
6                response to an actuation of said sensor;  
7                an intelligent controller having associated therewith a  
8                receiver for receiving said coded signal and a  
9                means for accessing programming material; and  
10              a display unit for presenting said programming  
11              material;

12              wherein said user actuates said sensor to cause said  
13              intelligent controller to access said programming  
14              material and said display unit to present said  
15              programming material to said user.

16       2. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said sensor comprises  
17           a touch sensor.

18       3. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said sensor comprises  
19           a capacitive touch sensor.

20       4. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said sensor comprises  
21           a conductive touch sensor.

22       5. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said sensor comprises

1           a page sensor.

2       6. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said printed matter  
3           includes both a page sensor and a touch sensor.

4       7. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said printed matter  
5           includes a pad having a plurality of touch sensors.

6       8. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said printed matter  
7           includes a plurality of pads, each having a plurality of  
8           touch sensors.

9       9. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said intelligent  
10          controller includes a microprocessor.

11      10. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said intelligent  
12          controller has associated therewith a memory means for  
13          storing programming material.

14      11. A system as defined in claim 10 wherein said memory means  
15          comprises a magnetic disk.

16      12. A system as defined in claim 10 wherein said memory means  
17          comprises a PCMCIA card.

18      13. A system as defined in claim 10 wherein said memory means  
19          comprises a flash RAM.

20      14. A system as defined in claim 10 wherein said memory means  
21          comprises a cache.

22      15. A system as defined in claim 10 wherein said memory means

1           comprises a CD-ROM.

- 2       16. A system as defined in claim 10 wherein said memory means is  
3           selected from the group consisting of: a ROM; a WORM disk; a  
4           floppy disk; a multi-layer optical disk; a magneto-optical  
5           disk; an IC card; a magnetic bubble memory; a sequential  
6           access memory; a magnetic tape; a magnetic drum; a magneto-  
7           optical drum; a static RAM; and a dynamic RAM.
- 8       17. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said intelligent  
9           controller includes a removable memory means.
- 10      18. A system as defined in claim 17 wherein said printed matter  
11           and said removable memory means are supplied to, or  
12           purchased by, the user as a set.
- 13      19. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said means for  
14           accessing programming material operates via a data link.
- 15      20. A system as defined in claim 19 wherein said data link  
16           comprises a telephone line.
- 17      21. A system as defined in claim 19 wherein said data link  
18           comprises a computer network.
- 19      22. A system as defined in claim 19 wherein said data link  
20           comprises an ISDN network.
- 21      23. A system as defined in claim 19 wherein said data link  
22           comprises an Ethernet network.



- 1       33. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said display unit
- 2              comprises a CATV converter, or wireless cable converter, and
- 3              a television set coupled thereto.
- 4       34. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said display unit
- 5              comprises a personal computer.
- 6       35. A system as defined in claim 34 wherein said personal
- 7              computer includes a CD-ROM for storing programming material.
- 8       36. A system as defined in claim 34 wherein said personal
- 9              computer includes means for decompressing compressed
- 10             programming material.
- 11      37. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said intelligent
- 12             controller and said display unit each comprise portions of a
- 13             personal computer.
- 14      38. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said programming
- 15             material includes entertainment programming.
- 16      39. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said programming
- 17             material includes educational programming.
- 18      40. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said programming
- 19             material supplements information contained in said printed
- 20             matter.
- 21      41. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said programming
- 22             material includes commercial programming.

- 1       42. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said programming
- 2              material includes promotional programming.
- 3       43. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said programming
- 4              material includes informational programming.
- 5       44. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said transmitter and
- 6              receiver communicate via an energy pathway.
- 7       45. A system as defined in claim 44 wherein said energy pathway
- 8              comprises a conductive cable.
- 9       46. A system as defined in claim 44 wherein said energy pathway
- 10             comprises an optical cable.
- 11       47. A system as defined in claim 44 wherein said energy pathway
- 12             comprises a capacitively coupled link.
- 13       48. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said transmitter and
- 14              receiver communicate via a wireless RF link.
- 15       49. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein said transmitter and
- 16              receiver communicate via an IR link.
- 17       50. A system for displaying programming to a user, the system
- 18              comprising:
  - 19                  a printed matter having at least one machine
  - 20                     recognizable feature;
  - 21                  a feature recognition unit having associated therewith
  - 22                     a means for recognizing said feature and a

1                   transmitter for transmitting a coded signal in  
2                   response to the recognition of said feature;  
3                   an intelligent controller having associated therewith a  
4                   receiver for receiving said coded signal and means  
5                   for accessing programming material; and  
6                   a display unit for presenting said programming  
7                   material;  
8  
9                   wherein said recognition unit, in response to the  
10                  recognition of said feature, causes said  
11                  intelligent controller to access said programming  
12                  material and said display unit to execute or  
13                  display said programming material.

- 14
- 15        51. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said intelligent  
16                  controller includes a microprocessor.
- 17
- 18        52. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said intelligent  
19                  controller has associated therewith a memory means for  
20                  storing programming material.
- 21
- 22        53. A system as defined in claim 52 wherein said memory means  
23                  comprises a magnetic disk.
- 24
- 25        54. A system as defined in claim 52 wherein said memory means  
26                  comprises a PCMCIA card.
- 27
- 28        55. A system as defined in claim 52 wherein said memory means

- 1                   comprises a flash RAM.
- 2       56. A system as defined in claim 52 wherein said memory means
- 3                   comprises a cache.
- 4       57. A system as defined in claim 52 wherein said memory means
- 5                   comprises a CD-ROM.
- 6       58. A system as defined in claim 52 wherein said memory means is
- 7                   selected from the group consisting of: a ROM; a WORM disk; a
- 8                   floppy disk; a multi-layer optical disk; a magneto-optical
- 9                   disk; an IC card; a magnetic bubble memory; a sequential
- 10                  access memory; a magnetic tape; a magnetic drum; a magneto-
- 11                  optical drum; a static RAM; and a dynamic RAM.
- 12       59. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said intelligent
- 13                  controller includes a removable memory means.
- 14       60. A system as defined in claim 59 wherein said printed matter
- 15                  and said removable memory means are supplied to, or
- 16                  purchased by, the user as a set.
- 17       61. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said means for
- 18                  accessing programming material operates via a data link.
- 19       62. A system as defined in claim 61 wherein said data link
- 20                  comprises a telephone line.
- 21       63. A system as defined in claim 61 wherein said data link
- 22                  comprises a computer network.

- 1       64. A system as defined in claim 61 wherein said data link
- 2                  comprises an ISDN network.
- 3        65. A system as defined in claim 61 wherein said data link
- 4                  comprises an Ethernet network.
- 5        66. A system as defined in claim 61 wherein said data link
- 6                  comprises a CATV line.
- 7        67. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said intelligent
- 8                  controller has associated therewith a buffer for temporarily
- 9                  storing the programming material.
- 10      68. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said intelligent
- 11                  controller includes means for decompressing compressed
- 12                  programming material.
- 13      69. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit
- 14                  comprises a video display.
- 15      70. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit
- 16                  comprises an audio transducer.
- 17      71. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit
- 18                  comprises a flat panel display.
- 19      72. A system as defined in claim 71 wherein said flat panel
- 20                  display is embedded within said printed matter.
- 21      73. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit
- 22                  has associated therewith a buffer for temporarily storing

1           programming material.

2     74. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit  
3        has associated therewith means for decompressing compressed  
4        programming material.

5     75. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit  
6        comprises a CATV converter, or wireless cable converter, and  
7        a television set coupled thereto.

8     76. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said display unit  
9        comprises a personal computer.

10    77. A system as defined in claim 76 wherein said personal  
11      computer includes a CD-ROM for storing programming material.

12    78. A system as defined in claim 76 wherein said personal  
13      computer includes means for decompressing compressed  
14      programming material.

15    79. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said intelligent  
16      controller and said display unit each comprise portions of a  
17      personal computer.

18    80. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said programming  
19      material includes entertainment programming.

20    81. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said programming  
21      material includes educational programming.

22    82. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said programming

1 material supplements information contained in said printed  
2 matter.

3 83. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said programming  
4 material includes commercial programming.

5 84. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said programming  
6 material includes promotional programming.

7 85. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said programming  
8 material includes informational programming.

9 86. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said transmitter and  
10 receiver communicate via an energy pathway.

11 87. A system as defined in claim 86 wherein said energy pathway  
12 comprises a conductive cable.

13 88. A system as defined in claim 86 wherein said energy pathway  
14 comprises an optical cable.

15 89. A system as defined in claim 86 wherein said energy pathway  
16 comprises a capacitively coupled link.

17 90. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said transmitter and  
18 receiver communicate via a wireless RF link.

19 91. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said transmitter and  
20 receiver communicate via an IR link.

21 92. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said feature  
22 comprises a bar code.

- 1       93. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said feature
- 2                  comprises an invisible bar code.
- 3       94. A system as defined in claim 50 comprises wherein said
- 4                  feature comprises a magnetic code.
- 5       95. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said feature
- 6                  comprises printed indicia.
- 7       96. A system as defined in claim 50 wherein said recognition
- 8                  unit comprises a hand-held unit.
- 9       97. A system as defined in claim 96 wherein said hand-held
- 10                 recognition unit includes a CCD camera.
- 11      98. A system as defined in claim 96 wherein said hand-held
- 12                 recognition unit includes a bar code reader.
- 13      99. A system as defined in claim 96 wherein said hand-held
- 14                 recognition unit comprises a magnetic detector.
- 15     100. A system as defined in claim 96 wherein said hand-held
- 16                 recognition unit comprises a scanner/mouse.
- 17     101. A system for delivering electronic programming to a user,
- 18                 the system comprising:
  - 19                         a printed matter having associated therewith at least
  - 20                         one sensor, a controller responsive to an
  - 21                         actuation of said sensor, and a transmitter
  - 22                         responsive to said controller for transmitting a

1                   coded signal; and  
2                   a display unit having associated therewith a receiver  
3                   for receiving said coded signal, means for  
4                   accessing programming material in response  
5                   thereto, and means for displaying or executing  
6                   said programming material; and  
7                   wherein said user actuates said sensor to cause said  
8                   programming material to be accessed and displayed  
9                   or executed.

- 10          102. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said controller  
11           includes a microprocessor.
- 12          103. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
13           further has associated therewith a memory means for storing  
14           programming material.
- 15          104. A system as defined in claim 103 wherein said memory means  
16           comprises a magnetic disk.
- 17          105. A system as defined in claim 103 wherein said memory means  
18           comprises a PCMCIA card.
- 19          106. A system as defined in claim 103 wherein said memory means  
20           comprises a flash RAM.
- 21          107. A system as defined in claim 103 wherein said memory means  
22           comprises a cache.

1 108. A system as defined in claim 103 wherein said memory means  
2 comprises a CD-ROM.

3        109. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said memory means  
4                  is selected from the group consisting of: a ROM; a WORM  
5                  disk; a floppy disk; a multi-layer optical disk; a magneto-  
6                  optical disk; an IC card; a magnetic bubble memory; a  
7                  sequential access memory; a magnetic tape; a magnetic drum;  
8                  a magneto-optical drum; a static RAM; and a dynamic RAM.

11        111. A system as defined in claim 110 wherein said printed matter  
12           and said removable memory means are supplied to, or  
13           purchased by, the user as a set.

14 112. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said means for  
15 accessing programming material operates via a data link.

16 113. A system as defined in claim 112 wherein said data link  
17 comprises a telephone line.

18 114. A system as defined in claim 112 wherein said data link  
19 comprises a computer network.

20 115. A system as defined in claim 112 wherein said data link  
comprises an ISDN network

116 A system as defined in claim 112 wherein said data link

1                   comprises an Ethernet network.

2       117. A system as defined in claim 112 wherein said data link  
3                   comprises a CATV line.

4       118. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said controller has  
5                   associated therewith a power-down or slow-down circuit for  
6                   reducing power consumption in said controller.

7       119. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said controller has  
8                   associated therewith a solar cell for powering said  
9                   controller..

10      120. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
11                  comprises a video display.

12      121. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
13                  comprises an audio transducer.

14      122. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
15                  comprises a flat panel display.

16      123. A system as defined in claim 122 wherein said flat panel  
17                  display is embedded within said printed matter.

18      124. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
19                  has associated therewith a buffer for temporarily storing  
20                  programming material.

21      125. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
22                  has associated therewith means for decompressing compressed

1           programming material.

2       126. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
3           comprises a CATV converter, or wireless cable converter, and  
4           a television set coupled thereto.

5       127. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said display unit  
6           comprises a personal computer.

7       128. A system as defined in claim 127 wherein said personal  
8           computer includes a CD-ROM for storing programming material.

9       129. A system as defined in claim 127 wherein said personal  
10           computer includes means for decompressing compressed  
11           programming material.

12      130. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said controller and  
13           said display unit each comprise portions of a personal  
14           computer.

15      131. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said programming  
16           material includes entertainment programming.

17      132. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said programming  
18           material includes educational programming.

19      133. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said programming  
20           material supplements information contained in said printed  
21           matter.

22      134. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said programming

1 material includes commercial programming.

2 135. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said programming  
3 material includes promotional programming.

4 136. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said programming  
5 material includes informational programming.

6 137. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said transmitter  
7 and receiver communicate via an energy pathway.

8 138. A system as defined in claim 137 wherein said energy pathway  
9 comprises a conductive cable.

10 139. A system as defined in claim 137 wherein said energy pathway  
11 comprises an optical cable.

12 140. A system as defined in claim 137 wherein said energy pathway  
13 comprises a capacitively coupled link.

14 141. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said transmitter  
15 and receiver communicate via a wireless RF link.

16 142. A system as defined in claim 101 wherein said transmitter  
17 and receiver communicate via an IR link.

18 143. A method of providing, accessing or utilizing electronic  
19 media services, the method comprising the steps of:  
20 providing a printed matter having at least one sensor  
21 associated therewith;

22 providing or programming an intelligent controller to,

1                   in response to an actuation of said sensor,  
2                   perform a pre-programmed command; and  
3                   executing said pre-programmed command to access or  
4                   control an electronic media.

5       144. A method of providing electronic programming material, the  
6                   method comprising the steps of:

7                   providing a printed matter to a potential customer;  
8                   pre-programming an intelligent controller to access or  
9                   control the transmission of electronic programming  
10                  material in response to an event wherein the  
11                  customer interacts with the printed matter in a  
12                  particular manner; and  
13                  displaying or executing said programming material in  
14                  response to the intelligent controller.

15       145. A method as defined in claim 144 wherein said printed matter  
16                  comprises a low-cost, throw away publication.

17       146. A method as defined in claim 144 wherein said customer  
18                  utilizes a feature recognition unit to interact with said  
19                  printed matter.

20       147. A method of providing or accessing shop-at-home services,  
21                  the method including the steps of:

22                  incorporating within a printed catalogue at least one

1                   sensor or machine-recognizable feature;  
2                   programming a controller to execute a pre-programmed  
3                   command in response to an event wherein a customer  
4                   interacts with said sensor or feature; and  
5                   responding to the execution of said pre-programmed  
6                   command.

7   148. A method as defined in claim 147 wherein responding  
8                   comprises presenting or delivering commercial programming to  
9                   the customer.

10   149. A method as defined in claim 147 wherein responding  
11                   comprises presenting or delivering promotional programming  
12                   to the customer.

13   150. A method as defined in claim 147 wherein responding  
14                   comprises contacting the customer by telephone.

15   151. A method as defined in claim 147 wherein responding  
16                   comprises providing an electronic menu to the customer.

17   152. A method as defined in claim 151, further comprising the  
18                   step of responding to the customer's menu selection(s).

19   153. An improved method of instruction, said method including the  
20                   steps of:

21                   providing a printed textbook having at least one sensor  
22                   or machine-recognizable feature associated

therewith;

providing a means, distinct from said textbook, for executing a pre-programmed command in response to an event wherein a reader of the textbook interacts with said sensor or feature; and responding to the execution of said command.

154. An improved method of instruction as defined in claim 153

wherein responding comprises: causing or controlling the delivery or presentation of multimedia material or other information related to that in the textbook to the reader.

155. An improved method of instruction as defined in claim 153

wherein responding comprises: forming a communication link between the reader and a tutor or consultant.

156. A low cost, throw-away printed matter useful for accessing

electronic media services, said printed matter including:

at least one sensor; and

means, responsive to an actuation of said sensor, for transmitting a coded signal indicative of said sensor.

20        157. A feature recognition unit useful, in combination with a  
21           printed matter, for accessing electronic media services,  
22           said recognition unit comprising:

1           means for recognizing features on said printed matter;

2           and

3           means, responsive to the recognition of a feature, for  
4           transmitting a coded signal indicative of said  
5           recognized feature.

6       158. A feature recognition unit as defined in claim 157 wherein  
7           said means for recognizing reads bar codes.

8       159. A feature recognition unit as defined in claim 157 wherein  
9           said means for recognizing reads printed indicia.

10      160. A feature recognition unit as defined in claim 157 wherein  
11           said means for recognizing reads magnetic codes.

12      161. A feature recognition unit as defined in claim 157 wherein  
13           said means for recognizing comprises a CCD camera.

14      162. A feature recognition unit as defined in claim 157 wherein  
15           said means for recognizing comprises a bar code reader.

16      163. A feature recognition unit as defined in claim 157, further  
17           including a microprocessor.

18      164. A system for delivering an electronic advertisement to a  
19           user, the system comprising:

20           a printed advertisement having associated therewith at  
21           least one sensor or machine-recognizable feature,  
22           a controller, responsive to an actuation of said

1                   sensor or a recognition of said machine-  
2                   recognizable feature, and a transmitter,  
3                   responsive to said controller, for transmitting a  
4                   coded signal; and  
5                   a display unit including a receiver for receiving said  
6                   coded signal and means for providing said user  
7                   with said electronic advertisement related to said  
8                   printed advertisement.

9         165. A system for delivering information services to a user,  
10                  the system comprising:  
11                  a printed reference having associated therewith at  
12                  least one sensor or machine-recognizable feature,  
13                  a controller, responsive to an actuation of said  
14                  sensor or a recognition of said machine-  
15                  recognizable feature, and a transmitter,  
16                  responsive to said controller, for transmitting a  
17                  coded signal; and  
18                  a display unit including a receiver for receiving said  
19                  coded signal and means for providing said user  
20                  with said information services related to said  
21                  printed reference.

22         166. A system for delivering information services as defined in

1       claim 165 wherein said display unit is contained within a  
2       personal communicator device.

3       167. A system for delivering information services as defined in  
4       claim 165 wherein said display unit is contained within a  
5       remote pager device.